

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application

Inventor: Richard Bontrager, et al.  
Appl. No.: 10/717,110  
Filed: November 19, 2003  
Title: MODIFIED SPRING SYSTEM END  
CAP FOR PACKAGING FRAGILE  
ARTICLES WITHIN SHIPPING  
CARTONS

PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 3632  
Examiner: Jonathon A. Szumny

Customer No.: 23910

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to **Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**, on February 10, 2005.

(Attorney Signature)

Michael L. Robbins, Reg. No. 54,774  
Signature Date: February 10, 2005

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

It is requested that the information identified in this statement be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56. If this is a continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application, it is understood that the Examiner will consider all information which was considered by the Office in a parent application. MPEP §609. Such information therefore is not listed herein unless it is desired that the information be printed on a patent issuing from the subject application.

***Enclosed with this statement are the following:***

- ☒ Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is requested to initial the form and return it to the undersigned in accordance with MPEP §609.
- ☒ The present application is being/was filed after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the pre-Official Gazette waiver of 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) posted at [pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/idswouscopies.htm](http://pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/idswouscopies.htm), copies of cited U.S. patents and publications are not enclosed.

***This statement should be considered because:***

- **37 CFR §1.97(b).** This statement qualifies under 37 CFR §1.97, subsection (b) because:
- (1) It is being filed within three months of the filing date of an application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d);  
-- OR --
  - (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage;

02/15/2005 RFEKADU1 00000033 10717110

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-- OR --

- (3) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,

-- OR --

- (4) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR §1.114.

X **37 CFR §1.97(c).** Although it may not qualify under subsection (b), this statement qualifies under 37 CFR §1.97, subsection (c) because:

- (1) It is being filed before the mailing date of a FINAL Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the subject application, whichever occurs first.

-- AND (check at least one of the following) --

- (1) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT as set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(e).

-- OR --

- X (2) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p).

       **37 CFR §1.97(d).** Although it may not qualify under subsection (b) or (c), this statement qualifies under 37 CFR §1.97, subsection (d) because:

- (1) It is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee;

-- AND --

- (2) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT as set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(e);

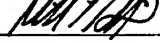
-- AND --

- (3) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p).

X **Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 06-1325.

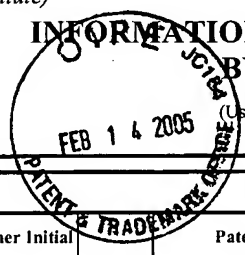
Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 10, 2005

By:   
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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> (Substitute)	US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	Attorney Docket Number <b>RSVP-03008US0</b>	Application No. <b>10/717,110</b>
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <b>BY APPLICANT</b> <small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small>		Applicant <b>Bontrager, et al.</b>	
		Filing Date <b>November 19, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit <b>3632</b>



U.S. PATENTS							
Examiner Initial	Patent Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date	
	1.	4,515,272 A	Newhouse			3/29/1983	
	2.	5,131,543 A	Stephens			10/03/91	
	3.	5,226,543 A	Foos et al.			2/24/1992	
	4.	5,249,685 A	Stephens			7/17/1992	
	5.	5,385,232 A	Foos et al.			1/24/1994	
	6.	5,445,292 A	Slomski et al.			9/9/1993	
	7.	5,515,976 A	Moren et al.			8/18/1995	
	8.	5,545,370 A	Moren et al.			4/11/1994	
	9.	5,586,677 A	Foos			9/30/1994	
	10.	5,634,559 A	Foos et al.			7/27/1995	
	11.	5,788,105 A	Foos			4/15/1997	
	12.	6,010,007 A	Moren et al.			2/21/1997	
	13.	6,123,200 A	Stephens et al.			4/6/1999	
	14.	6,142,304 A	Moren et al.			11/5/1999	
	15.	RE37,253	Moren et al.			5/12/1998	
	16.	6,520,337 B2	Smith			1/24/2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Translation		
				Yes	No	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if references considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

\*1 = Copy not submitted because it was submitted in prior application \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and relied upon under 35 USC §120.  
 \*2 = Copy not submitted because it was submitted in prior application \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and relied upon under 35 USC §120.